

**Amendments to the Claims**

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Presently Amended) ~~The screw of claim 1 wherein the head is provided with a~~ A screw for securing wood products, comprised of:

a shaft and a head, wherein the head is provided with a top surface having an opening to receive a tool and a bottom surface having a v-shaped undercut having a conical surface in the undercut that connects the lip with a conical underside of the head;

wherein the shaft is provided with a substantially cylindrical threaded upper region located proximate the head and a substantially cylindrical threaded lower region located near a distal end of the screw, the distal end having a tip, and the number of threads per unit length in the upper region exceeds the number of threads per unit length in the lower region, said shaft having a cross-sectional area along the cylindrical upper region greater than the cross-sectional area of the shaft along the cylindrical lower region.

7. (Original) The screw of claim 6 wherein the conical surface slants away from the lip toward the axis of the shaft at an angle of approximately 45°.

8. (Presently Amended) ~~The screw of claim 4~~ A screw for securing wood products, comprised of:

a shaft and a head, wherein the head is provided with a top surface having an opening to receive a tool;

wherein the shaft is provided with a substantially cylindrical threaded upper region located proximate the head and a substantially cylindrical threaded lower region located near a distal end of the screw, wherein the thread pattern of the lower region is

symmetrical, the distal end having a tip, and the number of threads per unit length in the upper region exceeds the number of threads per unit length in the lower region, said shaft having a cross-sectional area along the cylindrical upper region greater than the cross-sectional area of the shaft along the cylindrical lower region.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Cancelled)

(Presently Amended) ~~The screw of claim 1 wherein the tip is a~~ A screw for securing wood products, comprised of:

a shaft and a head, wherein the head is provided with a top surface having an opening to receive a tool;

wherein the shaft is provided with a substantially cylindrical threaded upper region located proximate the head and a substantially cylindrical threaded lower region located near a distal end of the screw, the distal end having a gimlet tip having an included angle from about 20° to about 30°, and the number of threads per unit length in the upper region exceeds the number of threads per unit length in the lower region, said shaft having a cross-sectional area along the cylindrical upper region greater than the cross-sectional area of the shaft along the cylindrical lower region.

12. (Cancelled)

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21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously Presented) A screw for securing wood products, comprised of:  
a shaft and a head, wherein the head is provided with a top surface having an opening to receive a tool;

wherein the shaft is provided with a substantially cylindrical threaded upper region located proximate the head and a substantially cylindrical threaded lower region located near a distal end of the screw, the distal end having a tip, wherein there are at least twice as many threads per unit length in the upper region as there are threads per unit length in the lower region, said shaft having a cross-sectional area along the cylindrical upper region greater than the cross-sectional area of the shaft along the cylindrical lower region.

24. (Original) The screw of claim 23 wherein the head is provided with a bottom surface, a crown that extends around the perimeter of the head and extends beyond the lower surface of the head thereby defining an open volume between the lower edge of the crown and the shaft of the screw.

25. (Original) The screw of claim 23 wherein the head is provided with a bottom surface, a crown that extends around the perimeter of the head, wherein the crown

extends beyond the lower surface of the head, forming a recessed region between the lower edge of the crown and the shaft of the screw.

26. (Original) The screw of claim 23 wherein the head is provided with a bottom surface having a v-shaped undercut.

27. (Original) The screw of claim 23 wherein the head is provided with a bottom surface having a v-shaped undercut having a conical surface in the undercut that connects the lip with a conical underside of the head.

28. (Original) The screw of claim 27 wherein the conical surface slants away from the lip toward the axis of the shaft at an angle of approximately 45°.

29. (Previously Presented) The screw of claim 23 wherein the head is provided with a top surface having a square opening.

30. (Original) The screw of claim 23 wherein the thread pattern of the lower region is symmetrical.

31. (Original) The screw of claim 23 wherein the upper region has an inverted buttress thread configuration.

32. (Original) The screw of claim 23 wherein the tip is a gimlet tip having an included angle from about 20° to about 30°.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Cancelled)

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39. (Cancelled)

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Cancelled)

43. (Cancelled)

44. (Cancelled)

45. (Previously Presented) A screw for securing wood products, comprised of:

a shaft and a head, wherein the head is provided with a top surface having an opening to receive a tool, a bottom surface, a crown that extends around the perimeter of the head and extends beyond the lower surface of the head thereby defining an open volume between the lower edge of the crown and the shaft of the screw;

wherein the shaft is provided with a substantially cylindrical threaded upper region located proximate the head and a substantially cylindrical threaded lower region located near a distal end of the screw, the distal end having a tip and the number of threads per unit length in the upper region exceeds the number of threads per unit length in the lower region, said shaft having a cross-sectional area along the cylindrical upper region greater than the cross-sectional area of the shaft along the cylindrical lower region.

46. (Original) The screw of claim 45 wherein there are at least twice as many threads per unit length in the upper region as there are threads per unit length in the lower region.
47. (Previously Presented) The screw of claim 45 wherein the head is provided with a top surface having a square opening.
48. (Original) The screw of claim 45 wherein the thread pattern of the lower region is symmetrical.
49. (Canceled)
50. (Original) The screw of claim 45 wherein the upper region has an inverted buttress thread configuration.
51. (Original) The screw of claim 45 wherein the tip is a gimlet tip having an included angle from about 20° to about 30°.
52. (Previously Presented) A screw for securing wood products, comprised of:  
a shaft and a head, wherein the head is provided with a top surface having an opening to receive a tool, a bottom surface, a crown that extends around the perimeter of the head, wherein the crown extends beyond the lower surface of the head, forming a recessed region between the lower edge of the crown and the shaft of the screw;  
wherein the shaft is provided with a substantially cylindrical threaded upper region located proximate the head and a substantially cylindrical threaded lower region located near a distal end of the screw, the distal end having a tip, and the number of threads per unit length in the upper region exceeds the number of threads per unit length in the lower region, said shaft having a cross-sectional area along the cylindrical upper region greater than the cross-sectional area of the shaft along the cylindrical lower region.
53. (Original) The screw of claim 52 wherein there are at least twice as many threads per unit length in the upper region as there are threads per unit length in the lower region.

54. (Previously Presented) The screw of claim 52 wherein the head is provided with a top surface having a square opening.
55. (Original) The screw of claim 52 wherein the thread pattern of the lower region is symmetrical.
56. (Canceled)
57. (Original) The screw of claim 52 wherein the upper region has an inverted buttress thread configuration.
58. (Original) The screw of claim 52 wherein the tip is a gimlet tip having an included angle from about 20° to about 30°.
59. (Previously Presented) A screw for securing wood products, comprised of:  
a shaft and a head, wherein the head is provided with a top surface having an opening to receive a tool and a bottom surface having a v-shaped undercut;  
wherein the shaft is provided with a substantially cylindrical threaded upper region located proximate the head and a substantially cylindrical threaded lower region located near a distal end of the screw, the distal end having a tip, and the number of threads per unit length in the upper region exceeds the number of threads per unit length in the lower region, said shaft having a cross-sectional area along the cylindrical upper region greater than the cross-sectional area of the shaft along the cylindrical lower region.
60. (Original) The screw of claim 59 wherein the v-shaped undercut has a conical surface that connects the lip with a conical underside of the head.
61. (Original) The screw of claim 60 wherein the conical surface slants away from the lip toward the axis of the shaft at an angle of approximately 45°.

62. (Original) The screw of claim 59 wherein there are at least twice as many threads per unit length in the upper region as there are threads per unit length in the lower region.

63. (Previously Presented) The screw of claim 59 wherein the head is provided with a top surface having a square opening.

64. (Original) The screw of claim 59 wherein the thread pattern of the lower region is symmetrical.

65. (Canceled)

66. (Original) The screw of claim 59 wherein the upper region has an inverted buttress thread configuration.

67. (Original) The screw of claim 59 wherein the tip is a gimlet tip having an included angle from about 20° to about 30°.

68. (Cancelled)

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93. (Cancelled)

94. (Previously Presented) A screw for securing wood products, comprised of:  
a shaft and a head, wherein the head is provided with a top surface having an opening to receive a tool;

wherein the shaft is provided with a substantially cylindrical threaded upper region located proximate the head and a substantially cylindrical threaded lower region located near a distal end of the screw, the distal end having a tip, wherein the cross-sectional area of the shaft along the cylindrical upper region is greater than the cross-sectional area of the shaft along the cylindrical lower region, the number of threads per unit length in the upper region are at least twice the number of threads per unit length in the lower region, and wherein the upper region has an inverted buttress thread configuration.

95. (Original) The screw of claim 94 wherein the head is provided with a bottom surface, a crown that extends around the perimeter of the head and extends beyond the lower surface of the head thereby defining an open volume between the lower edge of the crown and the shaft of the screw.

96. (Original) The screw of claim 94 wherein the head is provided with a bottom surface, a crown that extends around the perimeter of the head, wherein the crown extends beyond the lower surface of the head, forming a recessed region between the lower edge of the crown and the shaft of the screw.

97. (Original) The screw of claim 94 wherein the head is provided with a bottom surface having a v-shaped undercut.

98. (Cancelled)

99. (Cancelled)

100. (Previously Presented) The screw of claim 94 wherein the head is provided with a top surface having a square opening.

101. (Cancelled)

102. (Cancelled)

103. (Cancelled)

104. (Cancelled)

105. (Cancelled)

106. (Original) The screw of claim 94 wherein the thread pattern of the lower region is symmetrical.

107. (Original) The screw of claim 94 wherein the tip is a gimlet tip having an included angle from about 20° to about 30°.

108. (Original) The screw of claim 95 wherein the tip is a gimlet tip having an included angle from about 20° to about 30°.

109. (Original) The screw of claim 96 wherein the tip is a gimlet tip having an included angle from about 20° to about 30°.

110. (Original) The screw of claim 97 wherein the tip is a gimlet tip having an included angle from about 20° to about 30°.

111. (Canceled)

112. (Canceled)

113. (Original) The screw of claim 100 wherein the tip is a gimlet tip having an included angle from about 20° to about 30°.

114. (Canceled)

115. (Canceled)

116. (Canceled)

117. (Canceled)

118. (Canceled)

119. (Original) The screw of claim 106 wherein the tip is a gimlet tip having an included angle from about 20° to about 30°.